



## Maine Farmer.

HOMAN &amp; BADGER, Publishers.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Our Home, Our Country and Our Brother Man.

## Upcoming Meetings.

MAINE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, and Farmers and Dairymen's Convention, at Winslow, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1873. The discussion was opened by Maj. Louis Adams of East Winthrop. Nothing is more beautiful than a thrifty, well cared for orchard. The importance of fruit culture can hardly be over-estimated, for the first use of labor and capital is necessary to produce perfect health. It is a mistake to suppose we must wait many years to get returns for the money invested in fruit culture. To get an early start in orcharding, set trees at the earliest opportunity, even before the ground becomes dry enough to be worked for a garden. For the main crop is the most valuable, and the costliest raised of all fruits, with proper care and attention it will succeed in nearly every kind of soil. Much that the market may be offered and given all kinds of fruit, I am anxious to dispose of any such idea. Our home market is increasing, and Maine apples have better keeping qualities than western fruit, two things that we do much to keep up the price. Apples, with a few exceptions, will hold well on clay soils, inclining east or west. Set trees in straight rows, two rods apart each way and mulch thoroughly. Plant only hardy varieties, and those such as will give a succession of fruit from the earliest ripe to the latest. Planted trees will bear fruit in three years, and have but few varieties and those the most hardy and popular that can be obtained. Plant no trees that are shy bearers, however good the quality of their fruit. The proper selection of trees is the greatest care in setting out. Must we not plant our orchard grafting, so that the grower should understand grafting, in the process? It should be done in dry warm weather, in April or May. Then comes the task of training the trees, grafting out old, useless limbs and sprouts. Prune when young, forming low top, if this work is properly attended to until the trees commence bearing. Pick fruit when ripe, and never let it remain on the bushes long enough to prevent shaking. Sun and fair fruit, should reach the dealer before it is in eating condition. Make home fertilizer to the occupants by planting vining plants, such as beans, to cover the ground. I and my wife, I rejoice in my younger days when the ashes from a large soap factory were all shoveled out of the windows where we were all shoveling. But we can hardly afford to have a garden, and to keep up their fertility it is necessary to husband and apply everything of a fertilizing nature to our fields.

J. W. Foster, Patron of our Horticultural Society, has written to me concerning our trees. He says, "I have been told that our beans, when dried, will not grow at all without water. Please advise."

S. G. Foster.

D. G. Foster.

J. C. Foster.

# Maine Farmer

Augusta, January 24, 1874.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.  
\$2.00 in advance, or \$3.50 if not paid within  
Three Months of the date of subscription.

All payments made by subscribers will be credit-  
ed on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The  
printed date in connection with the subscriber's name  
will show the time to which he has paid, and will con-  
stitute in all cases a valid receipt for money ren-  
dered by him.

A subscriber desiring to change the post office  
direction of his paper must communicate to us the  
name of the office to which it has been previously sent;  
otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his re-  
quest.

## Collectors' Notices

Mrs. C. S. ATWELL will call on Lincoln county during the ensuing month.

Mrs. N. TABER, our agent, will call upon sub-  
scribers in Kennebec during the month of January.

## The Tax Commission.

In accordance with the suggestions of Gov. Dingley, a resolve has passed the Legislature providing for the appointment of a tax com-  
missioner, and Hon. A. W. Paine, late State  
Insurance Commissioner, has received the ap-  
pointment.

The resolve makes it the duty of the Com-  
missioner to investigate the systems of  
the Legislature some plan for raising revenue  
outside of direct taxation. As we understand  
it, the plan contemplates an increase of the  
rates of taxation on corporate property, in order  
to lighten the burdens of taxation upon real estate. Two classes of corporate property  
or incomes were referred to in connection with  
this subject, in the Governor's address; viz:  
Railroads and Insurance Companies.

In the case of railroads, until they become  
sources of income to the stockholders, we do  
not see that there is anything which ought to  
be taxed. In some of the older States, upon  
those thoroughfares of travel which pay large  
dividends, a proportionate tax can properly be  
levied, but we have no such roads in Maine. Most  
of the railroads in this State have been built at great expense, on account of the rugged  
character of the territory through which they pass, and are comparatively new. Some  
of them are really pioneers, passing through  
long stretches of unsettled territory, and as yet  
depend mostly upon through business for  
their support. By practicing the most rigid  
economy they have barely been able to pay  
their running expenses and repairs, leaving  
nothing to be divided among the holders of the  
stock. If additional taxes are imposed upon  
these roads it will become necessary for them  
to increase their rates of tariffs correspond-  
ingly, and what would be lost in the tax pay-  
ing direction would be lost in another. Some  
of our lines of railways are situated partly in  
Maine and partly in other States, and are  
owned and operated for the most part by  
parties residing out of the State, and it is more  
especially in connection with these roads that  
the measure for taxing railway securities is  
brought forward. In the case of the Grand  
Trunk, the stockholders have never received a  
dividend and the bonds which matured three  
years ago have not yet paid and their  
market value is considerably below par. They  
draw interest at the rate of six per cent., but,  
when obliged to pay State and municipal taxes  
as by law they are now subject, they become a  
very poor investment.

The Boston & Maine and Eastern are better  
paying roads, but their heavy expenditures in  
extending better railroad facilities to this State,  
during the last two years, have materially re-  
duced their net earnings and the value of their  
stocks. In brief, there is no railway company in  
Maine or doing business in Maine, which can  
bear any great amount of additional taxation,  
without being obliged to increase their rates  
upon the carriage of freight and passengers.  
And the same rule holds good with regard to  
Insurance Companies. If they are taxed they  
will increase their rates, and what is saved to  
the free-holders in State and municipal taxes,  
will be balanced by increased rates of insurance.

We are not blind to the fact that the present  
burdens of taxation bear heavily upon the own-  
ers of real estate and especially upon our small  
farmers, scores and hundreds of whom find it  
difficult to come out square at the year's end,  
but we fear that relief to any great extent will  
not be found in the direction indicated by the  
resolves of the Legislature.

It is well known that the middle classes  
are called upon to bear much more than their  
proportion of the burdens of taxation, because  
they pay taxes on all they have, and if some  
measure could be devised by which these bur-  
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# The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

## Poetry.

THE IVY GREEN.

By CHARLES DICKENS.

Oh, a faint plant is the Ivy green,  
That crooked o'er ruins old;  
In his coil so lone and cold, I ween,  
The walls must be crumbled, the stones decayed,  
And the wonderless dust that years have made,  
Is a mere green wreath.  
Creeping where no life is seen,  
A rare old plant is the Ivy green!

Fate is stealth on though he wears no wings,  
And he comes not to me in reply,  
How e'er he twines, how tight he clings  
To his friend, the huge old oak;  
And his leaves he gently waves,  
As the rich mold of dead men's graves.

A rare old plant is the Ivy green!

Whole ages have died and their ways decayed,  
And nations have scattered been;

But the soft ivy holds,

From its leaf and hairy green,

The brave old plant in its daily ways.

For the stately building man can raise  
In thy leafy bower,

Careless on, where man has been,

A rare old plant is the Ivy green!

## Our Story Teller.

### The Supervisor's Adventure.

It was at ——, in Yorkshire, that I first met with my friend the supervisor. I had the pleasure of an evening's conversation with him; an evening which I will never forget, and the tale of today reached a total that caused Reason to totter on her throne. We were conversing, among other topics, upon Fenianism, and I remarked to my friend the supervisor that I had a little to do with some of those things, that I didn't know exactly, though I was a Scotchman, whether he mightn't be an Irishman as well. You'll bear in mind that we'd reached the stage of our "today tournament" which we termed the *metes*, and that we were very much in earnest, anyhow, when they were getting mixed in ideas.

"And I am not surprised at the same," said Sandy, "for I live many years in Ireland, when I was just a garter, a good soi-lie in mattock, and the like, and my tools were a twist that it's never recovered from to this day. And to tell you the truth, it was the pleasantest country to live in all of the islands in Great Britain. Why, a man who was a dragoon, and a good one, too, and a good quarter, was equal to a lion, and there was something in the air of the country that was wholesome to that degree that ye might be drinking whiskey all the day, and never a penny for wages for it. Well, I was born in the heart of the country, up among the hills of Tipperary. I was just a raw lad, then, with my approbation as it were, and I was very active, ye may be sure, routing about the country hunting for foxes and rabbits; searching and wading through the water; and some things that might be a lion in my cap, and bring me speedy promotion. But never a drop of potheen or the whiff of a stink I could come across, though they were swarming about me the like."

"For one day, I sat at the top of a bit of a hillock looking over the wild country, and thinking of the braes o' Kirkbyrky, I spied a man coming along a wee bit of a track over the moor, and he was as foul as the laird o' Craignair.

"He was a stranger to the parts, too, and didn't know the face of me, and he came rolling and slithering along to where I was sitting.

"'God save you, friend,' said I.

"'I'm the perturbed you,' said my friend.

"'Is the decent drop of liquor you get up there beyond?' "

"'Be me soul, it is.'

"'And it's a decent gossoon that sells it.' I went on.

"'Indeed, he is.'

"'Will there be a drop left in the jug up beyond?'

"'There's lashings of it.'

"'May be ye'd be a drop more of that same.'

"Indeed I would.'

"'The man's perturbing you, friend,' said my friend.

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